

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 13029 281835Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /023 W
-----127590 290402Z /13
R 281721Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3586
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

UNCLAS GENEVA 13029

FOR IO FROM AMB VANDEN HEUVEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SZ
SUBJECT: TWA HIJACKING GENEVA

1. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE COULD
BE PASSED TO CARL E. MEYER, JR., PRES AND CHIEF AIRLINE
OFFICER OF TWA, 605 THIRD AVE, NYC 10016, TEL: (212) 557
3463.

2. QUOTE THE DRAMATIC EVENTS OF LAST FRIDAY REGARDING TWA
FLIGHT 830 AT THE GENEVA AIRPORT ENDED HAPPILY IN LARGE
MEASURE BECAUSE OF THE RESOURCEFULNESS AND INTELLIGENCE OF
THE TWA PERSONNEL INVOLVED. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SINGLE OUT
PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS BECAUSE SO MANY OF YOUR PERSONNEL
WERE INVOLVED. NEVERTHELESS, THE CREW OF THE PLANE AND ITS
ATTENDANTS, DIRECTED BY CAPT ROBERT HAMILTON, WERE EXEM-
PLARY. AT NO TIME WAS THERE ANY PANIC AND THE WISE
JUDGMENTS OF THE CAPTAIN AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE INSTRUMEN-
TAL IN THE SUCCESSFUL EVACUATION OF THE PLANE.

3. QUOTE I AM ALSO PARTICULARLY INDEBTED TO MR. STEWART
LONG, TWA'S VICE PRES INTERNATIONAL DIV, WHO DIRECTED THE
GROUND CONTACTS AND WHO HIMSELF BOARDED THE PLANE AT GREAT
PERSONAL RISK IN ORDER TO SHIELD PASSENGERS. HIS GENTLE BUT
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 13029 281835Z

FORCEFUL MANNER GAVE AN IMPORTANT FOCUS TO THE GROUND
OPERATIONS AND HIS PERSONAL COURAGE WAS EXEMPLARY OF THE
FINEST TRADITIONS OF THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY.

4. QUOTE CAPT JOHN WILLIAMS WAS THE FIRST TO ESTABLISH
RADIO CONTACT WITH THE PILOT AND HIS CAREFUL, CREATIVE
SUGGESTIONS GAVE CONFIDENCE TO ALL OF US. MAY I ALSO

COMMEND THE TWA MANAGER OF AIRPORT SERVICES, MR. RAFFAELE GERARDO, WHOSE DISCIPLINED RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS WAS AN EXAMPLE FOR EVERYONE AND WHO PROVIDED THE ESSENTIAL BRIDGE BETWEEN THE SWISS AND THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES WHO WERE DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM. BOTH AS THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND AS THE FATHER OF ONE OF THE PASSENGERS I WAS ENORMOUSLY PROUD OF TWA AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES. NO ONE COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE CRISIS BUT THE CREDIT FOR ITS SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION BELONGS TO YOUR TEAM.

5. QUOTE WITH APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION, WILLIAM J. VANDEN HEUVEL, UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR. END TEXT.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA13029
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780352-0007
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780818/aaaaapbw.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 881ff25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1605150
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWA HIJACKING GENEVA
TAGS: PINS, SZ, TWA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/881ff25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014